



### A VOICE OF EXPERIENCE

The name Clarence Yarn evokes memories of the rich soils of Iowa, of pioneering with Arlington (C-1) bent and of plain homespun humor and philosophy. Imagine my surprise when recently a call came to me at my home from Des Moines. The caller was none other than Clarence Yarn, now 83 years old, still vigorous of mind and purpose, speaking forcefully to me of many things over 1,000 miles of wire.

Clarence is proud to be an Iowan where 25 per cent of the A-1 agricultural land in the United States is to be found. (I learned something.)

On his new golf course he developed the fairways from native sod just by mowing! He keeps his turf so clean that there are no lost balls. Also, he welcomes the fifth player to a foursome; he says that he has made many friends that way.

No one knows how many native sons have gone to college because of Yarn's urging. My life has been made richer because Clarence Yarn has been a part of it. I am proud to write this bit for all to read. The turfgrass world owes him a deep debt of gratitude for his pioneering. Should anyone want to send greetings to Clarence Yarn, call him at (515) 289-1471.

*Q—In considering a combination golf course-residential complex in the Eastern Shore region of Maryland, the members of our group cannot agree on the selection of grasses for the various sites. We will have some shaded areas, much open sun, many lawns and the usual tee, fairway and putting green areas. There seem to be so many choices that we are confused and have no basis for selecting those grasses that will best serve our purpose. Can you help us? (Maryland)*

**A—**By coincidence, very recently I had the chance to travel with Tom Harris of the G.L. Cornell Company to the Princeton Turf Farms at Centerville, Md., which are managed by Parker Shirling. During the day we examined every one of the "57 varieties" of turf that are grown in various plots and fields. On the basis of these observations and my past experiences I can give you some guidance.

For shaded lawns, A-34 bluegrass seems to be tops, but don't discount a mixed turf, which contains Pennlawn creeping red fescue. A-34 turf is the "good feeling" kind that is springy and ideal for home lawns and for children.

Three other bluegrasses share the spotlight for professional use. They are Pennstar, Fylking and A-20. A-20 is vegetatively propagated only; the other two can be seeded. The turf they produce is firm, almost stiff, resistant to wear, capable of good recovery from injuries and highly resistant to most bluegrass diseases.

For roughs, there seems to be no rival to Kentucky 31 fescue with common bluegrass.

Three bermudagrasses do well in open sun where good summer turf is desired. They are Tifton 419, Tifgreen 328 and Tuscote. Don't count on these for year-round use.

Common bluegrasses were severely hit with leafspot. Merion develops rust in late summer. Some of the newer varieties have not yet proven themselves.

For putting greens the majority seem to go with Penncross. Its genetic variability gives it the unique ability to adapt to varying conditions and management.

The two outstanding elite fine-leaved perennial ryegrasses are

Pennfine and Manhattan. They can be used as companion grasses for the slower developing bluegrasses or they can be scarified—seeded into thin unsatisfactory turf. It is difficult to tell these ryegrasses from the good bluegrasses.

*Q—We have mixed fairway turf made up of just ordinary grasses that are thin and sparse. Do you think we would have any success overseeding with some quick-growing grass to give us a thicker turf that would hold a ball up better? (Delaware)*

**A—**Yes, I predict success in thickening your sparse mixed turf if you follow certain guidelines. First, the grass. My first choice is Pennfine ryegrass. If that grass is hard to find, plant Palo Mora ryegrass, which is a blend of Pennfine, Manhattan and Palo (designed to extend the supply of the elite fine-bladed turf-type ryegrasses). A good rate of seeding is 30 to 40 pounds an acre. Second, the method of seeding. If you can't locate a scarifier-seeder (seed placed in contact with soil in grooves) save your money. This is the best method we know of to date. Third, fertilization. To thicken the turf apply before seeding a 2-1-1 fertilizer made with slow-release nitrogen (at least 50 per cent; better, 75 per cent), so as to supply two pounds of N to 1,000 square feet (80 pounds an acre). You can do all this nearly anytime and without unduly disturbing play.

*Q—About how thick should sod be cut? (Iowa)*

**A—**The thinner the better. Thinly cut sod rolls more easily, a square yard is lighter in weight, it unrolls better and knits faster. □